Guide to the Ralph Bates Papers

GEN MSS 1013

by Karen Spicher

2013 December

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1013

**CREATOR:** Bates, Ralph, 1899-2000

**TITLE:** Ralph Bates Papers

**DATES:** 1930–2002

**BULK DATES:** 1960–1995

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.64 linear feet (14 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Chiefly in English, with some materials in Arabic.

**SUMMARY:** The Papers contain correspondence with literary colleagues and family, most 1960s-1990s; drafts and reviews of novels and short stories, 1960s-2000; writings of others about Bates, most 1980s-1990s; audiocassettes of lectures by Bates about literature, 1960s-1970s, and interviews with him about his life and writings, 1980s; personal papers, including biographical information and legal documents, 1930s-1970s; a few photographs and documents concerning his International Brigade service during the Spanish Civil War; and materials relating to Jonathan Bates’s imprisonment in Syria, 1972-1974, including correspondence with American and Syrian officials, legal documents, notes, and clippings.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.batesr

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Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.batesr.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- **b.** box
- **f.** folder
- item barcode
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Boxes 13-14 (audiocassettes): Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use
The Ralph Bates Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Ralph Bates Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information
Former call number: Uncat Mss 431. In 2013, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the vendor, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

Ralph Bates (1899-2000)
English author; wrote novels about Spain; served with Republican forces in the Spanish Civil War; professor of creative writing and English literature at New York University, 1947-1966; later lived in Naxos, Greece. Bates was married to Eve Salzman; their son Jonathan Bates was imprisoned in Syria on charges of espionage, 1972-1974.

Scope and Contents
The Papers contain correspondence with literary colleagues and family, most 1960s-1990s; drafts and reviews of novels and short stories, 1960s-2000; writings of others about Bates, most 1980s-1990s; audiocassettes of lectures by Bates about literature, 1960s-1970s, and interviews with him about his life and writings, 1980s; personal papers, including biographical information and legal documents, 1930s-1970s; a few photographs and documents concerning his International Brigade service during the Spanish Civil War; and materials relating to Jonathan Bates’s imprisonment in Syria, 1972-1974, including correspondence with American and Syrian officials, legal documents, notes, and clippings.
Arrangement

Collection Contents

Correspondence

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Contains incoming correspondence, with some outgoing drafts and carbons, and some third-party correspondence of Eve Salzman. Some letters are accompanied by writings of others.

See also additional correspondence in the Writing series and the Papers Relating to Jonathan Bates’s Imprisonment in Syria series.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent name, followed by unsorted correspondence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Chatto &amp; Windus</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Hart-Davis, Rupert</td>
<td>1982, 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Klaus, H. Gustav Includes letter from Bates to Klaus about Stephen Spender</td>
<td>1979–1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Manetti, Daniela</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>Miró, Micheline</td>
<td>1988–1994, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Oxford University Press</td>
<td>1998 June 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Ross, Alan</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>West, Rebecca</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12-15</td>
<td>Unsorted</td>
<td>1960s–1990s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writings
3.13 linear feet  (7.5 boxes)

Writings listed by title include drafts and reviews of novels; drafts and printed clippings of short stories and poems; and an audio recording of a short story draft. Some unpublished writings are listed under working titles. Other writings include unidentified short stories and unsorted review of novels.

Boxes 13 and 14 contain audiovisual material (audiocassettes). Restricted fragile. Reference copies are available upon request. Consult Access Services for further information.

Arranged alphabetically by title, followed by lectures, arranged chronologically; other writings, arranged by genre; and unsorted writings.

b. 2, f. 16-20  "Aquarius." Typescript photocopy
"Working title"

b. 2, f. 21  "Beer Song." Autograph manuscript

b. 2, f. 22  "The Burning Corn" (short story). Printed, with revisions

b. 2, f. 23-25  "Conquistidor" (novel). Autograph manuscript

b. 3, f. 26  "Conversations in Mexico" (article). Printed

b. 3, f. 27  "Death of a Virgin" (novella). Printed

b. 3, f. 28  The Dolphin in the Wood (novel). Clippings of reviews

b. 3, f. 29  "Elly Constantinos." Autograph manuscript
Also titled: "Eleni Konstantinos"

b. 3, f. 30-34  The Fields of Paradise (novel). Notes and drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript

b. 4, f. 35  The Fields of Paradise (novel). Clippings of reviews

b. 4, f. 36  "Flight into Egypt" (short story). Drafts, computer printout

b. 4, f. 37  "The Heart Pierced Through" (short story). Printed

b. 4, f. 38  "The Haunted Man" (novella). Autograph manuscript and typescript, revised

b. 4, f. 39-42  In Shining Naxos" (memoir). Drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, revised

b. 5, f. 43-46  In Shining Naxos" (memoir). Drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, revised

b. 5, f. 47-48  "The Journey to Mount Diadem" (novel). Drafts, autograph manuscript and typescript, revised

b. 6, f. 49-50  "Journey to the Sandalwood Forest" (novel). Typescript carbon, revised

b. 6, f. 51  Lean Men (novel). Clippings of reviews

b. 6, f. 52-53  "The Little She-Elephant" (short story). Printed

b. 6, f. 54  "Manhattan Underground" (novella). Drafts, typescript, revised
### Writings

- **b. 13, March 39002099369382**  
  "Bates' "Maria", 1st version"  
  1 Audiocassette  
  The audiocassette’s case reads, "His last attempt to write, or create a story, dictated to Jonathan Bates, early in 2000.

- **b. 6, f. 56**  
  "Maria's Story" (short story). Computer printout, revised

- **b. 6, f. 57**  
  *The Olive Field* (novel). Printed excerpts, photocopy

- **b. 6, f. 58**  
  *The Olive Field* (novel). Clippings of reviews

- **b. 6, f. 59-62**  
  "Peter Cavallini." Typescript, revised

- **b. 7, f. 63**  
  *Rainbow Fish* (novel). Clippings of reviews

- **b. 7, f. 64**  
  *Sirocco and Other Stories* (short story collection). Book jackets, photocopy

- **b. 7, f. 65-66**  
  *Sirocco and Other Stories* (short story collection). Clippings of reviews

- **b. 7, f. 67**  
  *The Undiscoverables and Other Stories* (short story collection). Clippings of reviews

- **b. 7, f. 68**  
  "The Winged Mountain" (collection of poems). Computer printout

### Lectures

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies are available upon request. Consult Access Services for further information.

- **b. 13, March 39002099369390**  
  1 Audiocassette  
  Given at the University of California, Santa Cruz  
  1968

- **b. 13, March 39002099369408**  
  1 Audiocassette  
  Given at the University of California, Santa Cruz  
  1968

- **b. 13, March 39002099369416**  
  1 Audiocassette  
  1970

- **b. 13, March 39002099369424**  
  “A Weekend in Hell” I, New York University, Tarrytown (1 of 4 audiocassettes)  
  1 Audiocassette  
  Seminar on hell as a subject in the arts.  
  1967 April 15–16

- **b. 13, March 39002099369432**  
  “A Weekend in Hell” II, 1, New York University, Tarrytown (2 of 4 audiocassettes)  
  1 Audiocassette  
  1967 April 15–16

- **b. 13, March 39002099369457**  
  “A Weekend in Hell” II, 2, New York University, Tarrytown (3 of 4 audiocassettes)  
  1 Audiocassette  
  1967 April 15–16
### Writings

#### Lectures (continued)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, 39002099369440</td>
<td>“A Weekend in Hell” III, New York University, Tarrytown (4 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>1967 April 15–16</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, 39002099369465</td>
<td>“Greek Tragedy: Origins and Development”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (1 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, 39002099369473</td>
<td>“Aeschylus”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (2 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, 39002099369481</td>
<td>“Sophocles”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (3 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, 39002099369499</td>
<td>“Euripides”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (4 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 14, 39002099369507</td>
<td>“The Epic in Literature”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (1 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 14, 39002099369515</td>
<td>“Paradise Lost” and “The Aeneid”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (2 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 14, 39002099369523</td>
<td>“The Aeneid”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (3 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14, 39002099369531</td>
<td>“The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel”. Lecture Series. Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City (4 of 4 audiocassettes)</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Writings

- b. 7, f. 84-85 Lists of writings
- b. 7, f. 86 Short stories
- b. 7, f. 87-88 Short stories. German translations by Hanna Behrend
- b. 8, f. 89-92 Unsorted
- b. 8, f. 93 Unsorted reviews
### Writings of Others

*1.04 linear feet (2.5 boxes)*

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<td>b. 8, f. 94</td>
<td>Manetti, Daniela. Academic thesis on writings of Ralph Bates. Printed in Italian.</td>
<td>1980s</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 103-104</td>
<td>Unsorted</td>
<td>1943–1995, undated</td>
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</table>
Personal Papers

0.63 linear feet (1.5 boxes)

Includes biographical information and obituaries; audiocassettes of interviews with Bates; identification documents; and an International Brigade discharge document and photographs relating to his service in the Spanish Civil War.

Box 14 contains audiovisual material (audiocassettes). Restricted fragile. Reference copies are available upon request. Consult Access Services for further information.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container No</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 105</td>
<td>Audio-Forum</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14</td>
<td>Biographical audiotape recordings: conversations with Daniela Manetti, Fiesole, Italy</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Audiocassettes</td>
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<td>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies are available upon request. Consult Access Services for further information.</td>
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<td>b. 14, 39002099369549</td>
<td>One</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
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<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14, 39002099369556</td>
<td>Two</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
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<td>b. 14, 39002099369572</td>
<td>Four</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
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<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
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<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
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<td>b. 14, 39002099369606</td>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
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<td>b. 14, 39002099369614</td>
<td>Eight</td>
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<td>b. 14, 39002099369622</td>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>1988–1989</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 14, 39002099369648</td>
<td>Ralph Bates: Recollections, Conversation with son Jonathan</td>
<td>1989 December</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies are available upon request. Consult Access Services for further information.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 117</td>
<td>Other biographical information</td>
<td>1981–2002, undated</td>
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<td>Container</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 118</td>
<td>Identification documents</td>
<td>1930–1973, undated</td>
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</table>
| b. 11, f. 119-120 | Kunst und Macht (exhibition, Deutsches Historisches Museum)  
Includes photographs of Ralph Bates. Includes letters from Peter Hillebrand. | 1996            |
| b. 11, f. 121 | Obituaries                                                                  | 2000–2001        |
| b. 11, f. 122 | Spain 
Includes photographs of Ralph Bates in Spain, 1936-1938                | 1936–1938, undated |
Papers Relating to Jonathan Bates's Imprisonment in Syria

0.42 linear feet (1.5 boxes)
Most materials are in English; a few are in Arabic.
Also see correspondence with Jonathan Bates in the Correspondence series.
Arranged roughly chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 123-130</td>
<td>Correspondence and other papers</td>
<td>1972–1974, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 131-133</td>
<td>Correspondence and other papers</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Authors, English -- 20th Century -- Archives
Prisoners -- Syria

Geographic Names
Spain -- History -- Civil War, 1936-1939
Spain -- History -- Civil War, 1936-1939 -- Literature and the war
Spain -- History -- Civil War, 1936-1939 -- Participation, British
Spain -- History -- Civil War, 1936-1939 -- Personal narratives, British
Syria -- Foreign relations -- United States
United States -- Foreign relations -- Syria

Genres / Formats
Audiocassettes -- United States -- 20th Century
Audiovisual materials -- United States -- 20th Century
Photographs -- 20th Century

Occupations
Authors -- England -- 20th Century

Names
Bates, Jonathan, 1942-
Bates, Ralph, 1899-2000
Behrend, Hanna, 1933-
Hart-Davis, Rupert, 1907-1999
Klaus, H. Gustav, 1944-
Ross, Alan, 1922-2001
Salzman, Eve
West, Rebecca, 1892-1983